

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SCCT-01 SY-05 /081 W

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P 231150Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3730

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: EPMG MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ASMARA AREA

REF: ASMARA 1015

1. EARLY ON MORNING OF DECEMBER 23, SEVERAL SOURCES WITNESSED LARGE NUMBERS OF LOADED TRUCKS (30 IN ONE GROUP) AND ARMORED VEHICLES (REPORTEDLY INCLUDING FIVE TANKS AND SIX ARMORED CARS) MOVING OUT OF ASMARA INTO AREA IMMEDIATELY TO WEST AND NORTHWEST OF CITY. TROOPS DISMOUNTED AND DEPLOYED IN FRONT OF VILLAGES AS CLOSE AS THREE OR FOUR KM FROM CITY. SMOKE FROM SEVERAL VILLAGES CAN BE CLEARLY SEEN FROM TRACT BRAVO. STRAFING AND BOMBING ACTIVITY IS ALSO HEAVY IN WESTERN AREA.

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2. SUBJECT OF CURRENT OPERATION WAS BROACHED TO BG GETACHEW

DURING DEC. 23 MEETING IN CONTEXT OF OUR CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF KIDNAP VICTIM MICHALKE. GETACHEW RESPONDED THAT OPERATION HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND THAT EVERY PRECAUTION IS BEING TAKEN TO ASSURE MICHALKE'S SAFETY. GETACHEW ADMITTED THAT HIS VIEWPOINT THAT SECURITY IN ERITREA SEEMED FAIRLY GOOD, AS ROADS, RAILROAD AND POWER TRANSMISSION LINES FROM MASSAWA ARE ALL INTACT, BUT HE ADDED "THINGS COULD BREAK OUT AT ANY TIME".

3. COMMENT: CURRENT OPERATION SEEMS AIMED AT FURTHER SECURING "CORDON SANITAIRE" AROUND ASMARA, AS WELL AS ATTEMPTING TO RE-INSTILL OFFENSIVE SPIRIT IN EPMG FORCES IN ERITREA.
WAUCHOPE

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Message Attributes

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